

Good Neighbor Environmental Board ROUND-UP

Board and environmental news along the U.S.-Mexico border

Volume 3, Number 5
October 2002



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Calendar of 2003 Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings

- February 18-19, 2003 Washington, DC.
- April 9-10, 2003 Deming, New Mexico
- July 30-31, 2003 Del Rio, Texas
- October 22-23, 2003 San Diego, California or Tijuana, B.C.

Board Sets 2003 Meeting Dates and Locations

The Board decided upon dates and locations for its 2003 meetings during its recent session in Nogales, Arizona.

The initial event will be a special session to take place in Washington, D.C. on February 18th and 19th. This special session will have two parts: a Border Environmental Forecast 2003, in which guest speakers will brief the Board on what they see as border-region environmental infrastructure priorities and challenges for the coming year; and a 2003 Strategic Planning Session. Preceding the meeting, on the afternoon of February 17th, the Board will launch its Sixth Report to the President and Congress and hold an orientation session for its new members.

The Board's first regular border- region meeting of the year will take place on April 9-10 in Deming, New Mexico. Several months later, on July 30-31, the Board will meet in Del Rio, Texas. The final meeting of 2003 will take place on October 22-23 in either San Diego, California, or Tijuana, B.C.; a portion of this meeting may be set aside for a joint session with Consejo, the Board's counterpart advisory group in Mexico.

All four sessions are open to the public, and interested parties are encouraged to attend. More details such as exact meeting sites will follow. A Board planning committee has been set up for each event; participating members will determine meeting themes, speakers and other details. Questions and comments about next year's meetings may be directed to the Board Chair, Placido DosSantos, the DFO, Elaine Koerner, or any Board member.

Nogales, Arizona Meeting Completes 2002 Meeting Cycle

Under the guidance of its new Chair, Placido DosSantos, the Board held its last meeting of 2002 in Nogales, Arizona, on October 9-10. Mayor Lopez gave official greetings. The Deputy Mayor, Nogales Chamber of Commerce, and a number of other officials and interested members of the public also were present. The event received media coverage by Nogales International newspaper.

Speakers on the first day focused on conservation and health issues. One key issue that emerged was the effect of immigration and drug smuggling activities on tribal lands conservation activities. The

second day included a Hot Topics Roundtable on water supply, BECC/NADBank, and Border 2012 Plan as well as a special session on security/emergency preparedness. After the meeting concluded, some of the members went on a field trip to the Coronado National Forest.

EPA Administrator Whitman Responds to Board's Fifth Report Recommendations

Administrator Christine Whitman has issued a response to the Board's Fifth Report recommendations. The letter was written on behalf of the Executive Office of the President. Text follows:

To the Members of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB):

On behalf of the Executive Office of the President, I submit the following remarks in response to the Fifth Report of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board to the President and Congress of the United States.

The Bush Administration appreciates your sage and timely advice concerning environmental infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border and values your discussion of the potential impact of water, air, and hazardous material issues on the health of border-region residents. We applaud your recognition of the need for partnerships, information sharing, and input from border communities and the reflection of those needs in the recommendations you make in the report.

During the meeting between President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, they reaffirmed their shared commitment to cooperating on environmental infrastructure issues. Upon his return, President Bush issued a statement defining the United States' relationship with Mexico as our nation's most important international relationship.

A prime example of this shared commitment is the agreement to reform the North American Development Bank (NADBank) and Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) – reforms that will help those institutions enhance environmental infrastructure along the border. The Administration commends GNEB for its continued focus on the operations of the NADBank and BECC and appreciates the Comment Letters submitted by GNEB last year on the need for public input – including that of communities along the U.S.-Mexico border – as part of the reform process. We hope that in the coming year you, as a highly respected, non-partisan advisory group, will offer advice on both the implementation of this reform agreement and the new U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Program.

On behalf of President Bush and the millions of people living along the U.S.-Mexico border, I thank you for a job well done and offer best wishes for continued success as you prepare the Sixth Report of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board to the President and Congress.

*Sincerely yours,
Christine Todd Whitman*

Steve Nesmith, Commerce Department Representative, Steps Down

Department of Commerce representative Steve Nesmith, Deputy Assistant Secretary Congressional Liaison for Program Research and Evaluation, has resigned from the Board due to a new, senior-level appointment within another agency. He has graciously agreed to assist in filling the Commerce Department membership slot as quickly as possible.

New Round of Board Member Recruitment Under Way

EPA's Office of Cooperative Environmental Management (OCEM), which oversees the activities of the Board, has begun a new round of recruitment in anticipation of the January 2003 completion of four non-federal members' terms. A Federal Register notice is forthcoming. Nominations should be sent directly to the Board's Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Elaine Koerner. Materials should include a resume and contact details; letter of support is optional. EPA Administrator Christine Whitman will make the new appointments.

Elaine Koerner, Board DFO, to Step Down

Elaine Koerner, who has served the Board as its DFO for the past 2 1/2 years, has announced that she will be stepping down from her position early in 2003 due to family relocation to the San Francisco Bay area. She will move from the Washington, D.C. area during December 2002 and complete her duties from the EPA Region 9 Office through February 2003. Recruitment for her successor has begun; interested parties should contact Cynthia Jones-Jackson, OCEM Staff Director for Planning, Technology, and Outreach at (202) 233-0067.

Oscar Carrillo to Work on Board Activities for Six Months

Oscar Carrillo has joined the EPA Office of Cooperative Environmental Management (OCEM) Team for a six-month period. He will work with Elaine Koerner on Good Neighbor management activities including the upcoming Strategic Planning Session. Mr. Carrillo grew up in El Paso, Texas and formerly held positions at the Texas Council on Environmental Quality. Most recently, he has focused his career on CEC policy from his position at EPA Headquarters in its Office of International Affairs. We welcome him to the team and look forward to benefiting from his experience. He can be reached at (202) 233-0072.

Board Member Irasema Coronado Co-Author of New Book

Social justice is the theme of a new book co-authored by Board member Irasema Coronado and Kathleen Staudt. "Fronteras No Mas: Toward Social Justice" looks at methods for enhancing cross-border cooperation. Dr. Coronado is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at El Paso. We congratulate her on her achievement.

Border Region and National News

*from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board October
2002 Round-Up*

****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.****

- **Air - Brick kilns** - The municipality of Ciudad Juarez, the U.S. DOE, the El Paso Electric Company, TCEQ, and other partners are supporting development of a clay filtration system they say greatly reduces toxic airborne emissions from brick kilns. **Mobile emissions** - EPA has announced a U.S.-led global partnership called "Clean Fuels and Vehicles" designed to eliminate lead in gasoline, reduction sulfur in diesel and gasoline, and adopt cleaner vehicle technologies.
- c **BECC - Certification** - Six projects have been certified by BECC for the following areas in the following communities: wastewater and sewage in Ojinaga, Chih; wastewater and sewage treatment in Tornillo, TX; solid-waste landfill in Tecate, BC; wastewater treatment in La Joya, TX; drinking water from the Rio Grande in Santa Rosa and San Benito, TX. **Technical Assistance Approved** - Approvals include: improvements to the potable water and wastewater system in La Feria, TX; construction of a sanitary landfill in Naco, Sonora; and improvements to three irrigation districts along the Rio Conchos in Chih.
- c **Business** - The federal Small Business Administration has launched a Spanish-language web site to assist current and aspiring small businesspeople. See www.sba.gov/espanol.
- c **CEC - JPAC** - Seven potential options for a CEC role in freshwater were discussed at a recent JPAC session in Albuquerque, NM. CEC is inviting public comment. See www.cec.org
- c **Emergency Preparedness - Sister City Plans** - The City of Naco, Sonora has signed a binational emergency preparedness/prevention plan with neighboring Cochise County, Arizona (including Naco). It is unique among binational border plans in that it is the first between a municipality and a

county.

- C **Health - Children's** - EPA has announced a U.S.-led global initiative to promote creation and use of children's environmental health indicators worldwide. See www.epa.gov
- C **IBWC - Citizens Fora** - The U.S. section of the IBWC seeks applications from community members interested in participating in the Colorado River Citizens' Forum. Deadline is January 7. See www.ibwc.state.gov
- C **Security** - EPA has announced its Strategic Plan for Homeland Security. Mission areas include water infrastructure and emergency preparedness. See www.epa.gov
- C **TRI** - EPA is holding an on-line public dialogue that began October 16 and will end December 17 to obtain input on its current system for reporting, collecting, processing, and releasing TRI data. See www.epa.gov/tri/stakeholders/outreach
- C **Water - Colorado River** - Proceedings from the 2001 U.S.-Mexico Colorado River Delta Symposium are available on the IBWC web site at www.ibwc.state.gov . **Data** - EPA has released a water infrastructure gap analysis report and called for a national forum with stakeholders early next year. See www.epa.gov/owm/featinfo.htm . **Groundwater** - A new book by Robert Glennon of the University of Arizona called "Water Follies" discusses groundwater pumping and resulting problems, using examples including the Santa Cruz River in Arizona. See www.islandpress.org . **Management** - CEC's Law and Policy division has published its "North American Boundary and Transboundary Inland Water Management Report"; the publication cites recommendations on watersheds made by the Good Neighbor Board in its Fifth Report. **Wastewater** - Reynosa, Tamaulipas has started up its BEIF-funded wastewater treatment plant Pump Station No. 4, which will increase pumping capacity and enable sewer system expansion. **Watersheds** - The Udall Center has announced that its investigators under the SOMBRHERO project have completed the first phase of a climate-change vulnerability assessment in two transborder watersheds: the Santa Cruz and the San Pedro. The project also encompasses water-access issues in the Nogales area. See www.arizona.edu .

Events Calendar

from the Good Neighbor Environmental

***Notes: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists. Please check a primary source for accuracy. **Events specific to border region are in bold.** Web sites may have to be re-entered. Please notify Editor of changes. ***

Special Insert:

Oct - Nov Border 2012 Public Meetings. Contact EPA El Paso and San Diego Border Offices or SEMARNAT for more details. Dates and locations of remaining meetings as follows: 10/30- Nogales, Sonora; 11/5- Cd. Acuna, Coa.; 11/6- Deming, NM; 11/6 - Del Rio, TX; 11/7 - National City, CA; 11/7- Las Cruces, NM; 11/7 Alpine, TX; 11/8 - Tijuana, BC; 11/11 - Matamoros, Temp.; 11/12- Brownsville, TX, 11/13- Calexico, CA; 11/13 - Nuevo Laredo, Tamps; 11/14 - Laredo, TX; 11/14 - El Cajon, CA; 11/18 - Ciudad Juarez, Chih; 11/19 - El Paso, TX.

- Oct 28-30** New Mexico Annual Environmental Health Conference, Albuquerque, NM. See www.nmeh.org
- Oct 29** IBWC public meeting, Yuma, AZ. See www.ibwc.state.gov .
- Oct 29-Nov 1** U.S.-Mexico Border Conference on Parks and Wildlife, McAllen, TX
- Oct 30 - Nov 1** World Watershed Summit, Washington, D.C.

Nov 4-7	DOI U.S.-Mexico Field Coordinating Committee mtg, Sierra Vista, AZ.
Nov 7-9	IV Meeting on the Border Environment, Tucson, AZ. See www.encuentrofronterizo.org
Nov 9-13	130 th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Philadelphia, PA.
Nov 13	EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum
Nov 14-15	New Ventures Investor Forum, Monterrey, Mexico. See www.new-ventures.org
Nov 15	Border Cities/Border Cultures, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Contact: joerod@uwm.edu
Nov 18-22	First International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, Monterrey, MX. See www.TransboundaryWatersMexico.org
Nov 19	Public Meeting for Tijuana-Rosarito Master Plan for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, San Ysidro Middle School
Nov 20-22	Arizona-Mexico Commission Plenary Session, Puerto Penasco, Sonora, MX. Contact: Shannon Wulf, (602) 542-1377. See www.azmc.org or www.comisionsonora-arizona.gob.mx
Nov 23	U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission meeting, El Paso, TX
Nov 25-26	U.S.-Mexico annual Binational Commission meeting
Dec 3-4	Roundtable: "Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management for the Western U.S.-Mexico Border Region," Scottsdale, AZ Contact: Carol Graves at 1 858 453 5560, ext. 107.
Dec 4-6	EPA National Compliance Assistance Providers Forum, San Antonio, TX. Contact: Joanne Berman, (202) 564-7064.
Dec 5	NADBank Board public meeting, San Antonio, TX. See www.nadb.org
Dec 9-10	JPAC Financing and the Environment public workshop and regular session Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, MX.. See www.cec.org/jpac
Dec 11	EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Border Forum
Dec 15-16	Colorado 'Water Users Association meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada
Dec	BECC meeting
2003	
Jan 9-10	Local Officials Border Policy Forum, Rio Rico, AZ
FEB 18-19	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, WASHINGTON, D.C.
Feb 27-28	CLE International Border Environmental Law Conference, Tempe, AZ
APR 9-10	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEMING, NEW
MEXICO	
Apr 9-12	Association for Borderland Studies annual meeting, Las Vegas, NEV
Mar 16-23	Third World Water Forum, Kyoto, Shiga, and Osaka, Japan.
	www.worldwaterforum.org
May	Encuentro Fronterizo Conference
June	Border Governors Conference, Chihuahua, Chih., MX. See: www.bordergovernors.com
June	U.S.-Mexico BorderHealth Association Conference
June 24-25	CEC Annual Council Session, Washington, D.C.
July 30-31	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEL RIO, TEXAS
July 30 - Aug 1	Conference: Water Security in the 21 st Century, Washington, D.C. Contact: mskerly@siu.edu
OCT 22-23	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, SAN DIEGO, CA or TIJUANA, BC

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